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Assistant Commissioner for Patents

File No. 16051-10US

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 1 to 29 with the following amended paragraph:

[0068] In particular embodiments, the oligonucleotide binds to one or more viral proteins, wherein said viral protein is different from a retroviral nucleocapsid protein, meaning that the viral component is not a retroviral nucleocapsid protein; the sequence of the oligonucleotide (or a portion thereof, e.g., at least 1/2) is derived from a viral genome; the activity of an oligonucleotide with a sequence derived from a viral genome is not superior to a random oligonucleotide or a random oligonucleotide of the same length; the oligonucleotide includes a portion complementary to a viral sequence and a portion not complementary to a viral sequence; the sequence of the oligonucleotide is derived from a viral packaging sequence or other viral sequence involved in an aptameric interaction; unless otherwise indicated, the sequence of the oligonucleotide includes A(x), C(x), G(x), T(x), AC(x), AG(x), AT(x), CG(x), CT(x), or GT(x), where x is 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, ... 60 ... 120 (in particular embodiments the oligonucleotide is at least 29, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 46, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, or 120 nucleotides in length or the length of the specified repeat sequence is at least a length just specified); the oligonucleotide is single stranded (RNA or DNA); the oligonucleotide is double stranded (RNA or DNA); the oligonucleotide includes at least one G quartet or CpG portion; the oligonucleotide includes a portion complementary to a viral mRNA and is at least 29, 37, or 38 nucleotides in length (or other length as specified above); the oligonucleotide includes at least one non-Watson-Crick oligonucleotide and/or at least one nucleotide that participates in non-Watson-Crick binding with another nucleotide; the oligonucleotide is a random oligonucleotide, the oligonucleotide is a random or includes a random portion, e.g., a random portion that has a length as specified above for oligonucleotide length; the oligonucleotide is linked or conjugated at one or more nucleotide residues to a molecule that modifies the characteristics of the oligonucleotide, e.g. to provide higher stability (such as stability in serum or stability in a particular solution), lower serum interaction, higher cellular uptake, higher viral protein interaction, improved ability to be formulated for delivery, a detectable signal, improved pharmacokinetic properties, specific tissue distribution, and/or lower toxicity.